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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W
---------- 044922
O R 080915Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO USINFO/WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3316
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 10837

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. ON MONDAY MORNING IN PHNOM PENH THE UNITED STATES AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC SIGNED AN AMENDMENT TO AN EARLIER AGREEMENT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL $5.4 MILLION WORTH OF WHEAT, COTTON AND COTTON YARN UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480 OR THE "FOOD FOR PEACE" PROGRAM. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF AID THUS FAR UNDER THE PROGRAM TO $19.1 MILLION FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR. THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MR. CHHANN SOKHUM SIGNED FOR CAMBODIA WHILE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THOMAS O. ENDERS SIGNED FOR THE U.S.

2. IN THE FIGHTING, KOMPONG CHAM REPORTED LIGHT MIXED MORTAR ATTACKS AROUND ITS DEFENSIVE PERIMETER ON SUNDAY. THERE WAS ONE ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNIST FORCES BETWEN ROUTE 7 AND AIRPORT BUT THE COMMUNISTS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW WITH LIGHT CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.
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3. FANK SOURCES REPORT THAT THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO HARASS GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON ROUTE 4 WITH SCATTERED MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS ATTACKS. A FANK POSITION ON HIGH GROUND SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 CAME UNDER ENEMY ATTACK SUNDAY BUT IS HOLDING FIRM AT LAST REPORT.

4. COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST SRANG AND TRAM KHNAR ON ROUTE 3 SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH AND ON TUK LAK AND SALA LEK PRAM, THE NORTERN AND SOUTHERNMOST POINTS ON THE ROUTE 5 CUT, WAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. KAMPOT TAKEO, SIEMREAP ANGKOR, BATTAMBANG, KOMPONG THOM, SVAY RIENG AND NEAK LUONG REPORTED LIGHT COMMUNIST SHELLINGS DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. IN THE ROUTE 38 AREA JUST SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, COMMUNIST SOLDIERS ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE PREK THANAOT RIVER AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS ON THE NORTH BANK EXCHANGED GUNFIRE SUNDAY WITH NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.

5. A MEKONG SHIP CONVOY THAT INCLUDED 2,000 TONS OF RICE ARRIVED SAFELY IN PHNOM PENH LATE SUNDAY NIGHT. A COMMUNIST ATTACK EN ROUTE CAUSED NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. THE CONVOY CONSISTED OF TWO GENERAL CARGO VESSELS, THREE POL SHIPS AND ONE AMMUNITION BARGE.

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